



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Permit system for Mushroom Harvesting in Place

Ravalli County Commissioners

Hamilton, Montana

Hamilton, Montana, March 27, 2007— District Ranger Dan Ritter announced his decision to have a permit system for mushroom harvesting in the Gash Fire area on the Stevensville Ranger District on the Bitterroot National Forest in the spring of 2007. Copies of the Decision Memo have been mailed to people who commented during scoping or those who requested a copy. Copies of the Decision Memo are available at the Stevensville Ranger District Office.

The Stevensville Ranger District will sell permits for commercial mushroom harvesting starting on April 17. No fees will be charged for personal use harvesting. Commercial mushroom harvesting will be allowed on 4,400 acres in the Gash Creek Fire area but commercial harvest will not be allowed in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. No camping will be permitted by commercial mushroom harvesters on Bitterroot National Forest lands. Personal use mushroom harvesting will be allowed in all 6,500 acres of the Gash Creek Fire. Mushrooms must be picked by hand and no heavy equipment will be allowed. The morel mushroom harvest season is expected to occur between April and July. Mushroom seasons vary somewhat with local weather conditions.

Other highlights of the permit system include: Personal use permits are free and will be available at all Bitterroot National Forest offices starting April 17. Mushrooms collected under personal use permits must be cut in lengthwise at the time of harvesting. Personal use harvesters have a five gallon per day limit. Commercial harvesting permits will be sold only at the Stevensville Ranger District. All commercial harvesters 12 years of age and older will be required to purchase a commercial permit. Fees for commercial permits: 7-day permit=\$20, 14-day permit=\$40, 21-day permit=\$60, 30-day permit=\$75, and season permit= \$100.

For additional information contact Elizabeth Ballard at the Stevensville Ranger District, 88 Main Street,
Stevensville, MT 59870 (406) 777-5461.

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